

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 TRSE-00
CU-02 IO-13 BIB-01 DHA-02 OIC-02 /079 W
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O R 161550Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1567
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 4808

FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV

FROM USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE
SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE: JULY 16

REF: BELGRADE 4806

SUMMARY: SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES MADE PROPOSALS DURING HALF-DAY SATURDAY PLENARY JULY 16 TO CUT SUBSTANTIALLY NUMBER OF MEETINGS ASSIGNED SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES AND TO FIX FIRM TERMINATION DATE FOR MAIN MEETING. AS EXPECTED, THEIR PROPOSALS MET COOL RESPONSE FROM THE WEST, NEUTRAL/NON-ALIGNED (NNA), AND ROMANIA. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET REP OPENED SESSION WITH PLEA THAT PREPARATORY
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MEETING CLARIFY FURTHER PREDOMINANT ROLE PLENARY IS TO HAVE OVER SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES DURING MAIN MEETING THIS FALL. HE INTRODUCED FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO PARA 6 OF ORGANIZATIONAL SECTION OF NNA PACKAGE PROPOSAL:
BEGIN TEXT: THE PLENARY WILL BE IN SESSION THROUGHTOUT THE ENTIRE DURATION OF THE MEETING NOT LESS THAN THREE TIMES A WEEK. THE SUBSIDIARY WORKINBODIES WILL BE IN

SESSION FOR FIVE WEEKS. THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS OF ANY OF THESE BODIES SHOULD NOT EXCEED FOUR MEETINGS A WEEK. THE WORKING PROGRAM FOR TWELVE WEEKS' ACTIVITIES IS ATTACHED TO THIS DOCUMENT AS ANNEX 1. END TEXT. SOVIETS SAID THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE DRAFT ANNEX BEFORE JULY 18.

2. SOVIET AMENDMENT DREW COOL REACTION FROM FOUR MAIN NEUTRAL AUTHORS OF NNA TEXT, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, SWEDEN, FINLAND. NEUTRALS GENERALLY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCOMMODATE SOVIET DESIRE TO STATE THAT PLENARY WOULD BE IN SESSION THROUGHOUT LENGTH OF MEETING (THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ENVISAGED, IF NOT EXPLICITLY STATED, IN THEIR PROPOSAL), TO ACCEPT THAT PLENARY COULD MEET AT LEAST THREE TIMES EVERY WEEK, AND TO REDUCE ENVISAGED MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES FROM 6-7 TO NO MORE THAN 5 PER WEEK. SWISS REP ALSO HINTED THAT NNA MIGHT EVENTUALLY ACCEPT THAT SEVEN RATHER THAN EIGHT WEEKS COULD BE ENVISAGED FOR MEETINGS OF SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES. IN STRONGEST NNA STATEMENT, HOWEVER, AUSTRIAN REP SAID THAT MAIN THRUST OF SOVIET PROPOSAL WOULD BE TO SHIFT BALANCE OF WORK ON KEY AGENDA ITEM DEALING WITH IMPLEMENTATION AND NEW PROPOSALS FROM WORKING BODIES TO PLENARY. THIS WOULD PREVENT DETAILED WORK AND WOULD BE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO HIS DEL, HE SAID. AUSTRIAN REP INDICATED WILLINGNESS
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TO CONSIDER EXPANDING EXISTING NNA DRAFT WORK PROGRAM FROM 6 WEEKS TO 12 WEEKS ONLY IF IT WAS CLEARLY SETTLED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO FIXED TERMINATION DATE FOR MEETING. OTHER MAIN NEUTRALS SUPPORTED AUSTRIAN POINTS, AND ROMANIA ARGUED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF NOT ATTEMPTING TO STRAIGHT-JACKET WORKING BODIES BY DRAWING UP TOO RIGID A SCHEDULE.

3. U.S. REP SUGGESTED THAT AGREEMENT AT SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES SHOULD MEET FIVE TIMES PER WEEK WOULD BE GOOD COMPROMISE AND SUPPORTED DELS WHICH HAD SAID THAT FIVE WEEKS NOT SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE THOROUGH EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN WORKING BODIES ON BOTH IMPLEMENTATION AND NEW PROPOSALS. BELGIUM AND FRG REPS ALSO SUGGESTED FIVE WOULD BE SUITABLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS PER WEEK FOR SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES, AND FRG REP THOUGHT THAT COMPROMISE ON DURATION OF WORKING BODY PHASE MIGHT BE FOUND BY USING LANGUAGE "AT LEAST FIVE WEEKS." FRG PROPOSAL DID NOT EVOKE RESPONSE FROM WESTERN OR NNA DELS, SINCE, GIVEN REQUIREMENT FOR CONSENSUS' OR FURTHER MEETINGS, FRG LANGUAGE WOULD UNNECESSARILY LIMIT TIME AVAILABLE FOR WORKING GROUPS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 4808

4. POINTS 7-11 OF NNA ORGANIZATIONAL PAPER (RULES OF
PROCEDURE, APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, PRO-
VISIONS FOR OPENING AND CLOSING STATEMENTS, AND ROTATING
CHAIRMANSHIP) WERE ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT.

5. POLISH REP DID RUNNING FOR SOVIETS ON DURATION ISSUE
(POINT 12 OF NNA PAPER). AFTER DROPPING HINT THAT OPEN-
ENDED MEETING COULD REDUCE WILLINGNESS OF SOME STATES
TO PARTICIPATE IN SIMILAR MEETINGS AFTER BELGRADE, HE
PROPOSED FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO POINT 12 OF NNA PAPER:
"THE SUBSIDIARY WORKING BODIES WILL COMPLETE THEIR
WORK BY.." (NNA HAD SET ONLY TARGET DATE FOR ENDING
WORKING BODY SESSIONS BY SAYING "WILL ENDEAVOR TO
COMPLETE THEIR WORK BY"); AND "IF BY THAT DATE
(DECEMBER 15) THE MEETING HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS TASK,
IT CONTINUES ON A WEEKLY BASIS BUT NOT LATER THAN 31
DECEMBER 1977." POLISH REP SAID THAT MEETING COULD
NOT BE CONTINUED INTO 1978. IF SOME DELS WISHED MORE
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TIME, HOWEVER, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER MOVING
OPENING DATE UP TO SEPTEMBER 20.

6. U.S. REP SAID THAT THILE WE ARE FLEXIBLE ON EXACT
WORKING WE PREFER LANGUAGE WHICH CLEARLY PROVIDES THAT
MEETING WILL END ONLY WHEN THERE IS CONSENSUS THAT ITS
WORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED. HE EXPLAINED THAT WE DO NOT
DESIRE LONG MEETING BUT BELIEVE THAT IF ALL DELS WORK
HARD THE MEETING CAN BE FINISHED IN A REASONABLE TIME-
FRAME. SETTING FIXED TERMINATION DATE WOULD ROB CSCE
CONSENSUS PRINCIPLE OF ITS MEANING, SINCE IT WOULD MEAN
MEETING COULD END BEFORE ALL DELEGATIONS WERE
SATISFIED WITH ITS RESULTS. U.S. REP SAID WE RECOGNIZE
THAT THERE ARE SOME RISKS IN REQUIRING A CONSENSUS
TO CLOSE BUT BELIEVE THAT ALL DELS SHOULD BE EXPECTED
TO ACT RESPONSIBLY. HE ADDED THAT FOR THESE REASONS
WE HAD PROPOSED TARGET DATE PLUS CONSENSUS-TO- CLOSE
FORMULA IN ORIGINAL US/UK PAPER, AND FELT THIS REP-
PRESENTED THE REQUIRED BALANCE.

7. YUGOSLAV AND ROMANIAN REPS OBJECTED TO FIXED TERMI-
NATION DATE. FORMER SAID THAT CONSENSUS-TO-CLOSE
REQUIREMENT WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD NOT RESULT IN
SIGNIFICANT PROLONGATION OF MAIN MEETING BEYOND
TWELVE-WEEK TARGET DATE SET BY NNA PAPER, BUT RIGIDITY
INHERENT IN A FIXED TERMINATION DATE WOULD HAVE
SERIOUSLY NEGATIVE POLITICAL EFFECTS ON MEETING.
ROMANIAN REP SAID MAIN MEETING MUST HAVE WHATEVER
TIME IS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ITS TASKS AND THAT NNA
FORMULATION WAS TOO AMBIGUOUS AND COULD LEAD TO PRO-
CEDURAL ARGUMENTS IN LATE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER OVER
WHETHER FURTHER WORKING BODY OR PLENARY SESSIONS SHOULD
BE SCHEDULED. HE SUPPORTED U.S. POSITION AND REPEATED
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PROPOSAL HE HAD ADVANCED ORIGINALLY JULY 13 THAT POINT
TWELVE BE REVISED TO PROVIDE THAT "ITS DURATION WILL BE A
MATTER OF MONTHS, BUT IN ANY CASE, THE MEETING CANNOT BE
CONCLUDED UNTIL IT HAS COMPLETED ITS TASK ACCORDING TO
ITS AGENDA." BELGIAN REP AGREED WITH U.S., YUGOSLAV,
AND ROMANIAN POSITIONS.

8. SOVIETS WERE AMONG EIGHT FURTHER INSCRIBED TO SPEAK
WHEN ALLOTTED TIME EXPIRED AND PLENARY ADJOURNED UNTIL
JULY 18.
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